

1 **Minutes 8/17/2015**

2 **Jericho Fire Services Task Force Meeting**
3 **August, 17 2015 6:30PM**
4 **Jericho Town Hall, 67 Vermont Route 15**
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6 **Members Present:** Chris Corbin, Frank Fisler, Chuck Lacy, Matt Thomson, William Bresee
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8 **Others Present:** Chief Mat Champlin, 1st Assistant Chief Tim Clark, 2nd Assistant Chief Loni Morse
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10 The meeting was called to order by Matt Thomson at 6:45 PM
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12 **1. Public Comment**

13 There were no items raised by the public.
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15 **2. Minutes.**

16 The minutes of 7/20 were approved.
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18 **3. Meeting Goals**

19 The task force is currently focused on data collection, and becoming better informed. This
20 meeting was an opportunity to learn from the Chiefs of the UJFD. There will be a separate
21 meeting with UJFD Chief Champlin to review the budget in the future.
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23 **4. UJFD ISO Ratings.**

24 Matt Thomson distributed a preliminary analysis of the UJFD's ISO Ratings; Follow up with
25 Honorary Chief Randy E. Clark will be required at some future time, to clarify how certain areas
26 were credited.
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28 **5. UJFD Structure and Governance**

29 Chief Champlin walked Task Force members through the history and structure of the UJFD
30 organization. A Chief, with two assistant Chiefs, run the organization. The tenure of the
31 individual Chiefs can vary permitting a robust overlap of experience. Both 1st and 2nd Assistant
32 Chiefs have been in their positions significantly longer than the current Chief (Chief Champlin),
33 creating continuity in the command structure. The Chief has a term limit of 10 years. Within
34 the UJFD hierarchy, below the Assistant Chiefs, there are 3 Captains, then 23 Lieutenants. Due
35 to an anomaly in the hiring timing and the rank of available people, currently the two full time
36 employee positions are one Lieutenant and one Captain. Historically, the two Lieutenant
37 positions have been volunteer posts and UJFD is contemplating whether and how to adjust the
38 structure for their next election in January. The FTEs work Monday to Friday 8AM to 4PM.
39 There are 33 firefighter positions plus officer positions within the Department.
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41 **6. Mission, Challenges and Goals**

42 Chief Champlin described the combined missions of the UJFD as 1) safety of his firefighters and
43 2) the property and life saving of the community. There was extensive discussion of the
44 challenges of training, compliance, equipment, and resources. Chief Champlin discussed a
45 number of current goals for the organization. Among these are: improved Emergency Medical
46 Services, fully trained staff, improved community engagement like working with the Task Force,
47 and improved coordination with the Town on topics of concern such as Zoning Regulations'

impact on community safety. An additional significant challenge is access to water. The ideal for fire fighting is a pressurized hydrant.

7. Walk-through the response of a typical 911 call

Members of the UJFD walked the Task Force through the details of a 911 response to a number of different scenarios. This discussion covered coordination with state police, EMS and other towns.

8. Performance Measurement

There was significant discussion of the role of ISO and NFPA. UJFD has been successful in improving their ISO rating. It is reported that this has benefited some members of the community in their homeowner's insurance rates.

9. What it is like to be a UJFD member

Members of UJFD have shared numerous accounts of the longevity of its membership and of its sense of community. The Task force was able to learn much of the sense of loyalty and commitment that is required for successful teamwork in emergency situations.

10. The Regulatory Environment

Discussion of the growth of regulation, and the sophistication of the equipment, have made it clear to the Task Force the role that training plays in the lives of all emergency personnel. The UJFD works to comply with the NFPA rating system. The combined goals of NFPA, ISO, member safety and effectiveness support an agenda rich with training and equipment upgrades and maintenance. The same firm that the town uses audits UJFD Financials.

11. Community Outreach

UJFD leadership and the Task Force had considerable discussion on the role of communications and community outreach. There was discussion of the history of the UJFD and its legacy of Town relations. There seems to be both an understanding and goal to engage the community to a greater degree.

12. Long-term planning

Chief Champlin and the Assistant Chiefs discussed both long term financial and operational planning. The challenges of equipment, buildings, and the goals for lower ISO ratings and balanced service to both towns were discussed in the planning conversation. Officers and changes to UJFD bylaws are voted on by the entire UJFD membership.

13. Future Meetings Planned.

The UJFD invited members of the Task Force to observe their Tuesday trainings held at the UJFD Firehouse.

The next Task Force meeting will be held 8/31 at 7:00pm. Agenda: As the principal proponents of the original motion to form this Task Force, Peter Booth, Lisa Rector and Olaf Verdonck are invited to discuss the questions they would like to see resolved by the Task Force.

The Task Force has added meetings on 11/2 at 7:00 PM and 12/14 at 7:00 PM to the calendar.